



# TINA YIANNICOU

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

### ABOUT ME

I'm a country girl at heart, as I have lived on farms and I love the outdoors and nature. You can take the girl out of the farm, but you can't take the farm out of the girl. This inspires me to always look for ways to help the children engage with animals and nature, and I'm sure you'll often see me with a group of children tending to the community gardens.

Early childhood is my passion, and I have worked in this field for over 25 years. I have taught at Nazareth Catholic College and Allenby Gardens Primary school, but I found my professional 'home' when I began working with SA Montessori at our sister centre Rosemont House Montessori. I have a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) as well as two Montessori Diplomas, one specialising in babies and toddlers aged between 0-3 and the other focusing on the Preschool age group of 3-6. During my career I have worked with many children who have additional needs. I strongly believe in genuine inclusion fuelled by empathy and respect. I build on each child's strengths and I respect the 'whole child', so I celebrate diversity and empower and encourage every single child in my care.

I am a passionate and dedicated educator who has an ability to connect equally with children, parents and my colleagues. I am warm and caring person and have an innate empathy that helps me build meaningful relationships with their children and families. I pride myself on interacting with parents in a professional, confident and compassionate way, and I'm always happy to share a smile or a laugh with you. I believe it is important to lead colleagues by 'walking the walk', so I am grateful that I can balance being a classroom teacher and a Montessori mentor. I have been part of our leadership team at Rosemont House Montessori, where I have reviewed peers, trained new staff, planned rosters, organised community events, interacted with other professionals outside of SA Montessori and developed positive solutions to many of the day-to-day challenges that arise. I bring fairness, consideration and impeccable ethics to every decision I make, and I am proud to share that with Echoes Montessori.

### MY ROLE

I am excited to be part of the Echoes Leadership team alongside Sarah and Karyn. I worked with this model at our sister centre, Rosemont House Montessori, so I know how effective it is to have a collaborative team working together to guide the centre. We each bring our own strengths and passions to the team, and this creates a broader, more inclusive and highly innovative approach to leadership. It also helps to remind all of our educators that leadership is a team task, not something that is left to one person, and we can all be role models to one another as we exchange ideas, share our experiences, and enrich each other's understanding.

I am deeply committed to ensuring that our environment inspires and delights every child. I am also honoured to help mentor our other educators in the Montessori approach. I am taking a particularly prominent role in the Preschool age group, but I look forward to contributing to the Nido and Bambini classrooms too.

# MY WORLD IN PICTURES

I have been happily married for 25 years and I am very proud of my two adult children, Simon (22) and Kati (21). My daughter Kati is one of the educators at Echoes Montessori, and we are excited that being a 'mother and daughter' team will be one part of the intergenerational atmosphere here!

I always love to laugh; humour is something I engage in on a daily basis. It helps to make the good times more memorable and the hard times more manageable. When things become a little stressful or hard, I believe humour is the best medicine.



---

## MY HOBBIES & INTERESTS



---

## MY CORE VALUES

